

--80. A method according to claim 63, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of a varnish and a paint.--

--81. A method according to claim 63, wherein said article comprises a bottom and a side wall, said bottom having an outer surface, the method comprising depositing the coating on said outer surface of said bottom.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 30-42 and 45-81 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 12, 32, 34 and 40-42 are amended, claims 19-29, 43 and 44 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 45-81 are added. No new matter has been added.

The attached Appendix includes a marked-up copy of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Crockford to Applicant's representative during the February 27 personal interview. The points discussed during the interview are incorporated into the remarks below which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Restriction Requirement between Group I, claim 1-18, Group II, claims 19-24 and Group III, claims 25-29 and additionally with claims 43 and 44 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 19-29, 43 and 44. It is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 and 5-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and claims 3-4, 9, 11 and 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Clark, U.S. Patent No. 3,804,663. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the interview, Clark fails to disclose a method of applying a coating with the step of depositing a predetermined quantity of coating on the inner surface of the bottom, without the coating contacting the side wall as recited in Applicant's claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 32.

Clark fails to disclose Applicant's claimed invention because Clark fails to disclose avoiding the side wall. Clark discloses a method for internally coating rigid or semi-rigid plastic containers. As shown in Fig. 4, step 2 of Clark, the coating is applied to the side walls and bottom walls using a spray.

In other embodiments of Clark, three grams of coating is poured into a container (col. 4, lines 44-45). However, it is neither taught nor disclosed to pour the coating in Clark such that the coating does not come into contact with a side wall. Clark thus fails to disclose or suggest the features of Applicant's claims 1 and 32.

In addition, claims 2-9, 11, 31 and 33 recite additional features of the invention and are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 32 and for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 10, 15, 34-36, 38-39 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and claims 12-14, 37 and 40-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Iwasaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,002,799 (Iwasaki '799). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the interview, Iwasaki '799 fails to disclose Applicant's claimed invention as recited in Applicant's independent claims 1, 34, 41 and 42. In addition, claims 10, 12-15 and 35-40 recite additional features of the invention and are also believed to be allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 34 and for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Iwasaki '799 in view of Iwasaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,599,579 (Iwasaki '579). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the interview, Iwasaki '579 fails to overcome the deficiencies of Iwasaki '799. In addition, claims 16-18 recite additional features of the invention and are also believed to be allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and

for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-81 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments in this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Appendix

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 19-29, 43 and 44 are canceled.

Claims 45-81 are added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A method of applying a coating on a hollow article comprising a bottom and a side wall, the bottom having an inner surface, the method including the steps of comprising:
_____ depositing a predetermined quantity of coating ~~in the fluid state on a center area of said inner surface of said bottom, said center area being spaced from said side wall, without said coating contacting said side wall;~~ and
- _____ spreading ~~it the coating~~ by causing the article to revolve.
10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the coating which spreads under the effect of centrifugal force is deposited on a surface which is itself substantially plane or slightly convex ~~and is situated on the outside of the article.~~
12. (Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the coating is applied directly to the entire ~~outside~~ surface of the article which is not covered by said predetermined quantity of coating spreading under the effect of centrifugal force.
32. (Amended) A method of applying a coating on a hollow article comprising a side wall, the method including the steps of depositing a predetermined quantity of coating ~~in the fluid state on a~~ an inner surface of the article without said coating contacting said side wall, and spreading ~~it the coating~~ by causing the article to revolve, wherein the ~~surface on which the coating is deposited lies inside the article and the quantity of coating deposited is sufficient to enable it the coating to rise under the effect of centrifugal force at least part of~~

the way up the side wall of the article and wherein rotation of the article is stopped suddenly after the coating has spread by the desired amount.

34. (Amended) A method of applying a coating on an article, the method ~~including the steps of comprising:~~
~~_____ depositing a predetermined quantity of coating in the fluid state on a surface of~~
~~the article; and~~
~~_____ spreading it the coating by causing the article to revolve; and~~
~~_____ , wherein the coating is applied~~ applying the coating directly to a surface of the article which is not covered by said predetermined quantity of coating spreading under the effect of centrifugal force.

40. (Amended) A method according to claim ~~39~~34, wherein rotation of the article is stopped suddenly after the coating has spread by the desired amount.

41. (Amended) A method of applying a coating on a hollow article comprising a bottom and a side wall, said bottom having an outer surface and an inner surface, the method including the steps of depositing a predetermined quantity of coating ~~in the fluid state on said~~ outer surface of said bottom, and spreading ~~it the coating~~ by causing the article to revolve, said article being selected from the group consisting of a container body, a container lid, a stopper and a flask.

42. (Amended) A method of applying a varnish or a paint on a hollow article comprising a bottom and a side wall, the method including the steps of depositing a predetermined quantity of varnish or paint ~~in the fluid state on a center area of said bottom~~ and spaced from said side wall, and spreading ~~it the varnish or the paint~~ by causing the article to revolve.